

The American Observer

A free, virtuous and enlightened people must know well the great principles and courses on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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Mental Pickups

By Walter E. Myer

THE Chinese philosopher, Lin Yutang, compares our minds with radio receiving sets. The radio set is equipped to receive music from the air. These sets differ greatly, some being far better than others. "Some sets," he says, "with a finer response, pick up the finer short waves which are lost to the other sets, and, of course, that finer, more distant music is all the more precious if only because it is less easily perceivable."

The human mind is like the radio set in many ways. There are differences among minds just as there are among the receiving sets. Some are sensitive, so that they may pick up ideas readily, so that they may understand the feelings of others. On the other hand there are minds which miss subtle shades of thought and feeling. The person who is insensitive or obtuse misses a great deal that is going on about him. He lacks the power of understanding other people. Similarly the faulty radio set fails, as Lin Yutang says, to pick up the "finer, more distant music."

I am afraid that there are a good many people whose mental and emotional receiving sets need repair or rebuilding. They can tune in on ideas that are easily attainable, but those that are difficult or artistic or somewhat subtle escape them. They are attuned only to the comic strips in the newspapers, to gossip conversation, to crime stories, but they cannot tune in on serious conversation, or the ideas of great thinkers.

Their mental receiving sets pick up cheap, sensational fiction, but do not catch the inspiration of great literature. They are attuned to jazz, but cannot hear the beauty of a symphony concert. They pick up breathings of hate and suspicion, but are not attuned to appeals for sympathy and justice.

But while the mind of man may be compared with a radio receiving set, the analogy is not complete. A receiving set that does not "get distance" will not be improved by use. The mind may be. One who finds that intellectually and emotionally he is attuned only to that which is cheap and common, may, by act of will, fix his mind and thoughts on other things.



Walter E. Myer

Such a person may try to hear the beauty of music. He may read great literature, giving it his full attention, and keeping his mind alert. He may read poetry. He may gain experience in serious conversation.

In the early days of the radio, there was much disappointment and complaint because most of the sets did not "get distance." For that reason the listener had to be satisfied with the programs presented by the local stations. Most radios are now equipped to bring in programs originating far away. Equal improvement is not being made with all mental receiving sets, but many people are learning to make contact increasingly with the great minds of past and present, and with the finer things that are to be found in life.



RUSSIA—"Why is everyone so suspicious of me?"

Resources of Russia

Her Land, People, and Mineral Wealth Are Discussed as Background for Informed Thinking About the Nation

The following article describes the land, people, and resources of the Soviet Union, and does not deal with the part which the nation is playing in world affairs. We have frequently discussed the foreign policy of Russia and how it conflicts with that of other countries, including our own. This week we are merely presenting facts about Russia which should be known by all Americans, regardless of what they may think of that country. The Soviet Union ranks next to the United States in strength, and we should know as much about that vast and mysterious land as it is possible to find out.

THE Union of Soviet Socialist Republics occupies almost one-sixth of the world's land surface—an area greater than that of all North America. The giant country reaches westward into Europe and eastward into the Pacific beyond Japan, almost touching Alaska. North to south, Russia extends from far north of the Arctic Circle down to the latitude of northern Texas.

Within this vast area, there are many kinds of people, climate, and resources. The entire north remains cold and frozen a good part of the year. The great central plain feels sharp extremes of heat and cold, depending upon the season. The Crimea,

Russia's Black Sea vacation land, is warm and sunny most of the time.

The bulk of the Soviet Union is level or only slightly hilly. In certain parts of the country, however, there are mountains of great height and grandeur. The Caucasus Mountains, between the Black Sea and the Caspian, have peaks that are more than three miles above sea level, and near Afghanistan there is a high plateau. The Ural Mountains, between European Russia and Siberia, are a long range but, for the most part, they are not very high.

The nation has several great rivers, but they do not empty into any of the major oceans. Some of them flow into the ice-bound Arctic Ocean, or are frozen during many months of the year. Others empty into the Caspian Sea, which is surrounded by land.

Some Russian rivers flow into the Black Sea, which is connected by the Dardanelles with the Mediterranean. Because she does not control the Dardanelles, the Soviet Union does not feel that she can depend on this route to the ocean at all times.

Taken as a whole, Russia's rivers are used chiefly, when not frozen, for shipping goods from one part of the country to another. Only on the Pacific coast, far from most of the industries and cities, are there ocean

(Concluded on pages 4 and 5)

The Oil Problems Confronting U. S.

Temporary Shortage Draws Attention to the Difficulties That May Lie Ahead

THE federal government and the American petroleum industry are busily pushing the nation-wide "save oil" campaign. Unless car drivers, home owners, and factories cut down on the use of their oil by 15 per cent, there simply will not be enough to go around for the next few months. Among the suggestions which are being made to conserve oil are these:

1. Keep the temperature of homes, office buildings, stores, apartments, hotels, and factories at 68 degrees or lower during waking or working hours, and 60 degrees or lower at other times. Heat no unoccupied rooms or unused space except to prevent damage from the cold. Every degree of decrease in average temperature cuts fuel consumption about 3 per cent.

2. Reduce gasoline consumption by (a) driving less, (b) driving more slowly, (c) reorganizing wartime-type car pools, (d) using public transportation whenever possible, (e) asking for "regular" gasoline instead of "high-test."

3. Install insulation, weather stripping and storm sashes where possible. Government studies show these devices cut fuel consumption by 20 to 50 per cent.

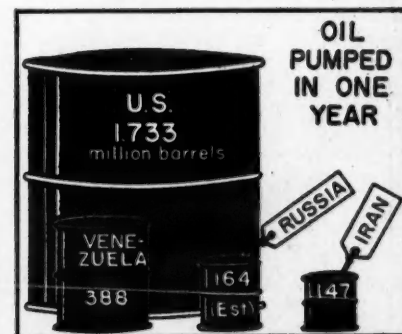
4. Waste no hot water and keep shades down and venetian blinds closed whenever possible to conserve heat.

Why are we short of oil? Is this a permanent situation?

The answer to the second question is "no." The United States still has a fairly good supply of petroleum under the ground. The present shortage is due to the fact that there is not enough equipment to move fuel oil and gasoline from refineries to the places where they are sold and used.

There are too few barges, tankers, pipelines, and tank cars to do the job. More of these will be built as quickly as steel can be obtained. But it may take another year to manufacture all the equipment that is required

(Concluded on page 6)



OIL PUMPED in one year by the four leading oil-producing countries of the world.

The Story of the Week



THE QUIZ KIDS are sponsoring a new contest in which students will write on the subject of their "best teacher"

C. M. FRANK PHOTO

"Best Teacher" Contest

Letters are now being received from students all over America for the "Best Teacher Contest" sponsored by the Quiz Kids radio program.

The contest is open to elementary, junior high, and senior high school students. All you need to do is write a letter on the subject, "The Teacher Who Has Helped Me Most," and send it to Best Teacher Contest, Quiz Kids, Chicago, Illinois. Letters can be any length, but must contain your name, age, grade, school, and home address, as well as the name and school address of the teacher you write about.

Cash prizes will be given to the three teachers about whom the best letters are written. The 10 students who write the best letters will receive awards of \$50 each.

Your letter will be judged on how honestly and clearly it tells how some teacher has helped you, and the importance of that help. What you say is more important than how you say it. You may write about any teacher you have ever had, if he or she is still teaching. All students have an equal chance to win, regardless of grade in school. Letters must be written without help from teachers or parents.

Prices in Canada

After about four months of uncontrolled prices, Canada has again clamped controls on the prices of meat and butter. This action came soon after Great Britain had agreed to pay more for Canadian eggs, bacon, and beef. The result was that prices in Canada shot up rapidly, and public demand caused the government

in Ottawa to reimpose the price ceilings which they had previously abandoned.

Many Americans are watching the price situation in Canada with interest. Until the recent move, our northern neighbor had gone through somewhat the same cycle that we have had in the United States since wartime price controls were lifted. Now Canada has seen fit to restore controls on certain items.

In this country there is some demand that price ceilings be put back. However, unlike Canada, the demand has not been so strong that our government has taken action on it.

Tibet Closes Borders

Very little news seeps out from remote Tibet, but a report has recently come through that the borders of this far-away land will be closed until 1950 because fortune-tellers have decided that the boy-priest-king of Tibet is in serious danger from "foreigners."

If this report is true, Tibet will be more cut off from the rest of the world than usual. This land, hemmed in by mountain ranges between China and India, is a harsh, wild region of barren plateaus and mountains. There are few roads and no railways. Until recent years it was closed to all foreigners and the few white men who saw this fabulous country did so in disguise.

Almost twice as big as Texas, Tibet probably has about 3 million people. They consist largely of farmers, priests, herders, and nomads. In addition to cattle raising and some agriculture, the people weave colorful

rugs and make religious images out of gold and silver.

During the war some of the supplies bound for China were transported by way of Tibet. This gave more foreigners than ever before a chance to visit this "forbidden land." Those who went there report that Lhasa, the capital, is as entrancing as any "fairytale" city. On a rocky hill top sits a huge, rambling building—partly castle and partly monastery—from which the boy-priest-king rules.

Although maps show Tibet to be a part of China, it is actually so remote that it carries on its own government and has little more contact with China than with the rest of the world.

The country is actually controlled by Buddhist monks and priests. They are fearful that foreign influences may reduce their power. They are so conservative that they prohibit most modern machines, as well as foreign clothing and customs.

Eisenhower Aftermath

Since General Eisenhower, a little more than a week ago, announced definitely that he would not be a presidential candidate, party leaders have been revising their estimates, figuring out, as best they can, how the General's withdrawal will affect the candidates now in the field.

Candidates Taft, Dewey, and Stassen, outstanding Republican rivals, are, no doubt, pleased. The Eisenhower movement was a threat to all of them. The General is very popular and there was a chance that if none of the other candidates received a majority in the early balloting, an irresistible swing to Eisenhower might sweep the convention. That

possibility now seems to have been removed.

Friends of President Truman are also pleased with the Eisenhower withdrawal. It is believed in the Truman camp that the popular military hero would be a harder man for the President to defeat than would any other Republican.

Food for Olympics

Americans are going to feed the athletes from all countries during the Olympic Games in England next summer. Sports writers throughout the United States will raise the \$300,000 needed to buy food for 6,000 competitors by sponsoring athletic events.

This decision was reached as the result of widespread feeling that it would be unfair for well-fed athletes from America to compete with undernourished athletes from Europe and other war-devastated areas. For example, an average British meat ration is equal to about two hamburgers a week. Athletes nourished on that diet might find it difficult to give much competition to those who had trained on steaks.

All Olympic competitors will now have the same basic diet during the 17 days that the games are in progress. Of course, America's food gift cannot entirely make up for deficient diets during the training period, but it does show that this country wants the conditions of competition to be as fair and equal as possible for all nations.

Elder Statesman Speaks

Since Bernard Baruch, two weeks ago, gave a Senate committee his views on European recovery and inflation in this country, members of Congress have been studying his proposals. A trusted adviser to several of our Presidents in the last 30 years, 77-year-old Mr. Baruch is considered an expert on problems of finance. Although his over-all plan may not be followed, it is being carefully considered.

Mr. Baruch called upon workers, farmers, and industrialists to put forth the same effort to increase production that they did during the war. It is his opinion that working hours should be increased and that every possible effort should be made to turn out more food and goods in this country. Only by producing enough to meet the great national and world demand for agricultural and industrial products, he says, will the United States be able to ward off dangerous inflation. So long as there is a shortage of goods, prices will continue to go higher and higher.

The government, according to Mr.



A HOPEFUL BRITISH VIEW. This cartoonist expresses the belief that Britain has overcome the postwar crisis. Whether this conviction is right remains to be seen

VICKY IN LONDON DAILY NEWS CHRONICLE

Baruch, should reduce food prices. Farmers, in return, should be guaranteed a fair price for their crops over the next three-year period. Workers, in return for lower food prices, should agree to keep wages where they are.

Mr. Baruch goes on to say that there should be no reduction of income taxes for two years, but they should then be gradually lowered for five years. He believes, however, that businesses making excessively high profits should pay more taxes now.

In the opinion of Mr. Baruch, such measures as these will enable the United States to increase its output considerably, to avoid dangerous inflation, and to help European nations get back on their feet. He believes that we should do everything we can

eral months. Many who are against the plan think that power can be supplied better by private companies than by a government project.

Boy Scout Week

During Boy Scout Week, which begins Friday, February 6, more than 2 million members of the Boy Scouts of America will observe the 38th anniversary of the organization. Celebrations will be held in every city and in most towns and villages throughout the nation.

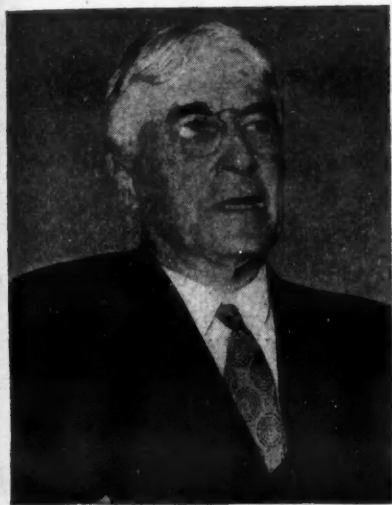
The theme of Boy Scout Week this year is, "The Scout Citizen at Work . . . in his home . . . in his community . . . in his nation . . . in his world." Scouting activities for the year beginning with the birthday celebration will be related to this theme.

In 1948 the Boy Scouts are emphasizing conservation of food and natural resources, planting gardens, safety and fire prevention, home repairs, and personal health check-up. They will continue throughout the year to help Scout organizations overseas to rebuild. Thus far, more than 3,000 tons of equipment have been shipped abroad.

United Western Europe?

One of the most important international movements under way at the present time is the serious attempt of Britain to form a union of western Europe. She is seeking to bring Belgium, the Netherlands, France, Italy, and the other countries, free of Russian control into a close working relationship with herself.

If this program is carried through along with the Marshall Plan, it will be of tremendous importance to Europe's economic life, and it will play a vital role in the relationship between Russia and eastern Europe, on the one hand, and the western nations, on the other.



BERNARD BARUCH'S IDEAS for keeping the nation sound and prosperous are being debated by Congress.

to aid Europe in increasing its production and to increase world trade.

Some members of Congress feel that the Baruch proposals are too drastic and impractical. Others believe they are sound and should be adopted.

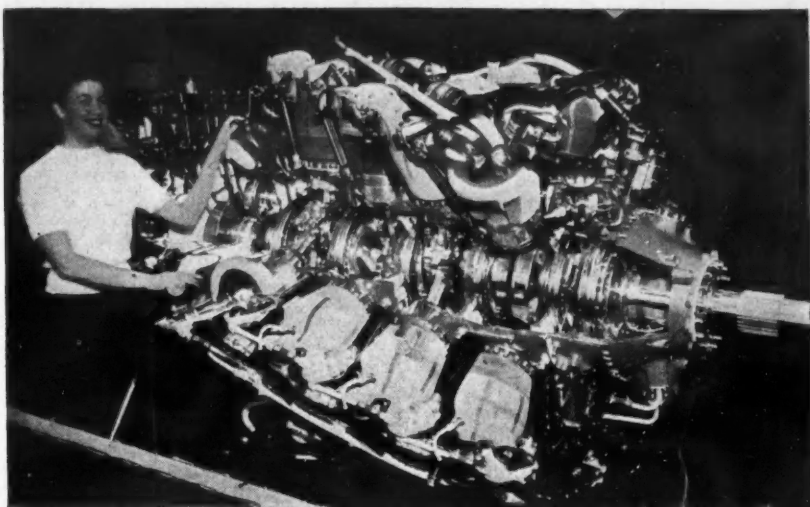
Highway to the Sea

The St. Lawrence River project is again before Congress for action. A plan for making the river navigable from the Atlantic Ocean all the way to the Great Lakes has been debated for years. Canada has agreed to co-operate on the plan if the U. S. Congress approves it and sets aside our share of the money needed to carry it out.

The project consists of two parts. One would improve certain sections of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway that are too shallow for ocean-going vessels. Ships would then be able to go from the Atlantic clear to Duluth, Minnesota. The second part of the project would set up a large power plant in the International Rapids in the St. Lawrence.

Opinion has always been divided over this plan. Those who favor the measure feel that it would contribute to national prosperity by bringing ocean trade to the heart of the continent. They say that it would make the Great Lakes available for large ships, and would furnish more and cheaper power for homes and factories.

Opponents of the project fear that many coastal sections would suffer in loss of shipping and trade. They point out that the project would cost many millions of dollars, and yet could be used only part of the year since the St. Lawrence is ice-locked for sev-



A WORKING MODEL of Pratt & Whitney's new 3,650-horse-power engine. Sections have been cut away so that the model can be used for instruction. Scientists and engineers continue to devise increasingly powerful and complicated machines.

In an early issue, we shall discuss at length what a united western Europe might mean to the world.

Air Force Prospects

Prospects now seem favorable that the Air Force will be built up in line with the recommendations recently made by President Truman's Air Policy Commission. Since the Committee report was discussed in THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, a bill has been introduced in Congress calling for the expansion of the Air Force from 55 to 70 combat groups. Air Force leaders have for some time recommended this expansion as the best guarantee against atomic war.

The present bill, which calls for a 4-billion-dollar expenditure in the next two years, was introduced by Senator Johnson of Colorado. Senator Taft has also come out recently in support of a powerful air arm. In the past both of these lawmakers have favored lower expenditures for national defense than military leaders have

desired. The fact that these two men are now advocating a stronger air force seems to indicate that the aviation-expansion bill has a good chance of becoming law.

Pronunciations

Archangel—ark ayn' juhl
Baku—bah koo'
Caucasus—kaw' kah sus
Crimea—cry me' ah
Dnieper—nee' puh'r
Kief—kee' yef
Kuibyshev—kwee'bi shef
Magnitogorsk—mahg ni to gorsk'
Murmansk—moor' mahnsk'
Sakhalin—sah kah leen'
Vladivostok—vlah' di vós tók'

Science News

A SCIENTIST at the University of Minnesota has succeeded in isolating the "virus" or contagious matter which causes infantile paralysis in small animals. It is hoped that further experimentation will locate the related virus which gives the disease to humans. When this is accomplished, an important step in developing a vaccine against polio will have been taken.

"Sleds" which can move at the rate of over a thousand miles an hour are being tested at the Muroc Air Base in California. These machines, which are not manned, are sent skimming over the ground on ordinary railroad tracks, held fast by runners. It is hoped that these tests will help to develop new methods for testing airplanes at supersonic speeds.

The substance in onions which makes the eyes water may have a practical use. Experiments show that it is an alcohol derivative containing sulphur. It is thought that the powerful substance may be used as an antiseptic.

Notice

The monthly current events test will appear next week in the issue of February 9. It will be based on the preceding four issues of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, dated January 12, 19, 26, and February 2. The test will not cover the issue in which it appears.

The answer key will be published in the February 9 issue of *The Civic Leader*.

S M I L E S

An astronomer reports finding a star which was lost 7,000,000 years ago. Such honesty should not go unrewarded.

★ ★ ★

Toothpaste is advertised to do so many things it seems a shame just to brush your teeth with it.

★ ★ ★

Reporter to basketball coach: "Do your boys get up bright and early?"
Coach: "Just early."

★ ★ ★

Young Man: "I'd like some advice, sir, on how to run a newspaper."
Editor: "You've come to the wrong person. Ask one of my subscribers."

★ ★ ★

Teacher: "John, how many revolutions does the earth make in a day?"
John: "I won't know until I see the afternoon paper."

★ ★ ★

Impatient man (waiting for public telephone directory): "Can I help you find the number you want?"
Young woman (sweetly): "Oh, I don't want a number. I'm looking for a pretty name for my baby."

★ ★ ★

Ringmaster: "Who broke that trapeze?"
Acrobat: "I did, with my little acts."

Auntie: "When I was a child I was told that if I made an ugly face I would keep it."

Little Pamela: "Well, you can't say you weren't warned."

★ ★ ★

Clothing store owner: "I hear that our competitor up the street has sold hundreds of umbrellas lately, while we've sold only a few. How does he do it?"

Clerk: "Oh, didn't you know? He has a big sign out in front of his store which reads, 'The weatherman says Clear Tomorrow.' You know what that means."



"Instead of me seeing it three times, can we all see it once on the same ticket?"

(Concluded from page 1)

ports which can be used all year.

The Soviet Union has few good highways. Her railway system, before the war, was only about one-fourth as large as that of the United States, although distances to be covered in Russia are far greater than in our country. There is only the Trans-Siberian Railway to connect the vast eastern part of the country with the industries and farming regions of European Russia.

Russia's wastelands include hundreds of miles of swampy tundras, a large desert in the south, and the great frozen north. Nevertheless, she has more land suitable for cultivation than we have in the United States. On the other hand, weather conditions in the Russian farm belt are not as favorable as they are in our farming areas.

Some of the best Russian farmlands are found in the Ukraine, which is located in the southwestern part of European Russia. Before the war, that area produced about as much food as did our own Middle West. Like the United States, Russia also has other rich farming regions which produce a variety of foods.

Before World War II, Russia turned out huge quantities of potatoes and grain. From her fisheries she obtained about all the sea food that she needed. But her farms did not produce nearly enough butter, cheese, meat, and similar products.

Mineral Wealth

Beneath Russian soil lies immense mineral wealth, which was being rapidly developed before the war. In 1940, the Soviet Union ranked second among all nations in oil production, second in iron ore, third in steel, and fourth in coal. Russia also possesses great quantities of other important minerals, such as manganese.

In the northern part of the country are the largest forests in the world. From them Russia obtains enormous amounts of timber.

The black earth of the Ukraine, the coal of the Don River basin, the iron ore of the Urals, the forests of the north, the grasslands of the steppes—these are the natural resources on which Russia depends most heavily for food and raw materials.

Because Russia wraps herself in a cloak of secrecy, it is difficult to learn exactly how strong her industries are. It is known, though, that great new plants have been built in the Urals and in Siberia during recent years. Industrial development is also going forward in European Russia.

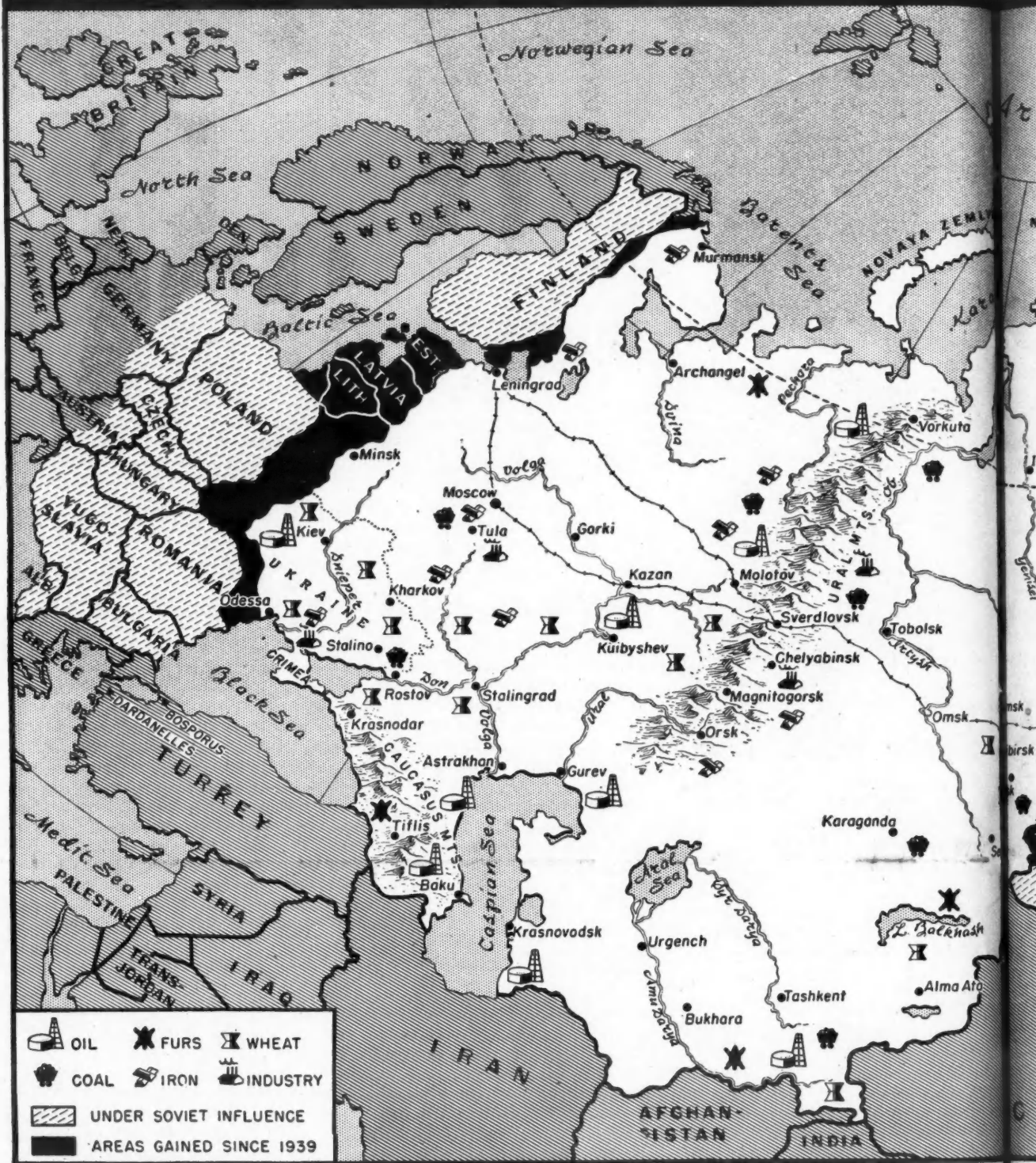
The present population of the Soviet Union, including the people of areas in Europe which she has taken over, is about 193 million. And the Russians are increasing in number almost twice as rapidly as are the people of the United States.

The people of Russia belong to many different races, and they speak about 150 languages and dialects. However, nearly four-fifths of the Russians are Slavs, and thus are of the same race as the inhabitants of other countries in eastern Europe.

The Soviet government permits the various groups to follow their own customs and use their own languages. In all parts of the country, though, many people are studying the language which is generally spoken in a large area around Moscow, the capital.

The Soviet Union is divided into

THE UNION OF SOVIET SA



16 large provinces, or "republics." Each of these has considerable control over its own affairs, but the central government in Moscow has the final word on all big questions.

Children and young people are required to attend school from kindergarten through high school. As a result, nearly all the young people can read and write. They are also trained for jobs on the farms and in the factories. The best qualified students are permitted to go to college and specialize in such professions as medicine, scientific research, and engineering. But throughout their schooling, the government does not allow them to study facts and opinions which it opposes, and thus they are not well prepared to think for themselves on public questions.

Before the revolution which brought the Communists into power, most Russians lived in the country and made their living from the soil. In recent years, there has been a great movement of people from farms to the cities. By 1939, 56 out of every 100 Russians lived and worked in the towns and cities.

Because of this, and also because

of damage done by the war, living conditions in the cities have been extremely crowded and unpleasant. In almost every house or apartment, there is more than one family living. It is therefore impossible for a Russian family to have the privacy that most American families enjoy.

Working hours in Russia, in comparison with ours, are very long. Generally both the father and mother of a family are employed. Young children are sent to spend their days in nurseries which have been established in the cities and in some farming areas.

Collective Farms

Most farm families in Russia do not live on individual farms, but in villages. They go out in groups to work the soil. The average village is the center of a collective farm on which a large number of village people work together. Part of what they produce is turned over to the government, and the remainder is divided among themselves.

The government owns the factories, mines, railroads, and most of the land. An individual, though, is permitted

to own his own home, a small patch of ground, and certain personal property.

In the villages, the government has attempted to provide recreational equipment for the residents. The radios and movies help to entertain the people, and also bring to them information which the government wants them to have. City people, in their spare hours, see movies, hear radio broadcasts, and spend evenings with friends.

Russia, of course, has a very long way to go in order to catch up with our country. She does not begin to provide her people with the comforts which are enjoyed by Americans. She was far behind us, in this and other ways, when World War II began. And the German invasion, which smashed through her most developed territory, set her back a number of years.

Nevertheless, Russia has great natural wealth, and she obtains materials and goods from the foreign areas which are under her control. The manner in which Russia uses her wealth and power, of course, depends on the decisions of the Soviet government. It can either work for prosperity and national well-being, or it

ALIST REPUBLICS TODAY



Russian Leader

Josef Stalin

Conflicting rumors about the state of Josef Stalin's health have been heard frequently in recent weeks. Official Soviet pictures are printed to show that the Generalissimo is in good health, while some reports claim that he is gravely ill. THE AMERICAN OBSERVER cannot vouch for any of these statements. Here, though, are some facts on the life of the man who, in recent years, has been at the head of the government in Russia.

Born in 1879 as Iosif Dzhugashvili, the Communist leader did not assume the name of Stalin, "the man of steel," until 1912 when he was well launched on his political career. The son of a worker in a shoe factory, he was reared as a member of the Russian Orthodox Church and was educated for the priesthood. He soon rebelled against the restrictions of seminary life, and at the age of 15 joined the revolutionary movement.

During and immediately after the Revolution of 1917, Stalin occupied various key political and military positions. In 1922 he was made secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party. Two years later, when Lenin died, Stalin became the uncontested leader of the Soviet Union. His personal life and his official work since that time have been characterized by his belief in rigid, iron-clad discipline, and by his tremendous capacity for work.

In appearance, the Russian leader is said to be less impressive than he looks in official photographs. His 68 years are said to show themselves in his greying hair, his tired face, and his slowing walk. His mind, however, has been characterized by Americans who have talked with him as being quick and logical.

Although Stalin still probably has more power than any other single leader in Russia, it appears that the task of ruling the country is no longer a one-man job. A great deal of the responsibility is borne by the other 13 members of the Communist Party's political bureau. Foreign Minister Molotov is a member of this group.

can take actions which will bring about a destructive world war. Some students of Russia believe there is a good chance that, if conditions improve in the Soviet Union, the Communist government will become more peaceful and will gradually give the masses of people more freedom and democracy. Others are convinced that the Soviet dictatorship will never voluntarily loosen its tight grip on the Russian people, and that it will become increasingly dangerous to world peace.

Outside Reading

"Our Partner in Oil," by Gordon Gaskill, *American Magazine*, October 1947, and *Reader's Digest*, December 1947. U. S. oil interests in Arabia. "Oil's Recurrent Crises," *Business Week*, August 30, 1947. Reasons for oil shortage. "The A.B.C. of U.S.S.R.," *Newsweek*, December 22, 1947. A glimpse of life in Russia. "Russian Industry: Myth or Menace?" by Ellsworth L. Raymond, *Saturday Evening Post*, November 29, 1947.

The Observer's Weekly Study Guide

Oil Problem

1. What is the cause of the present shortage of fuel oil and gasoline?
2. Give three suggestions made by the federal government and the petroleum industry on how individuals can help to save oil during the present emergency.
3. What conflicting statements are made about the length of time our oil reserves in the United States will last?
4. Locate two or more of the major oil regions in the world.
5. Why is the world oil situation making it more difficult for the big nations to live peaceably together?
6. What new development may make it unnecessary for us to buy oil abroad after our natural reserves are exhausted?
7. Name some of the ways in which this new development would benefit our country.
8. What is the main argument against having the United Nations supervise the distribution of the world's oil supply?

Discussion

1. Do you or do you not feel it would be wise for the United Nations to supervise the world distribution of oil? Explain your answer.

2. Do you think the federal government should finance experimental plants for testing ways of making synthetic oil, or do you think this work should be left to private companies? Give your reasons.

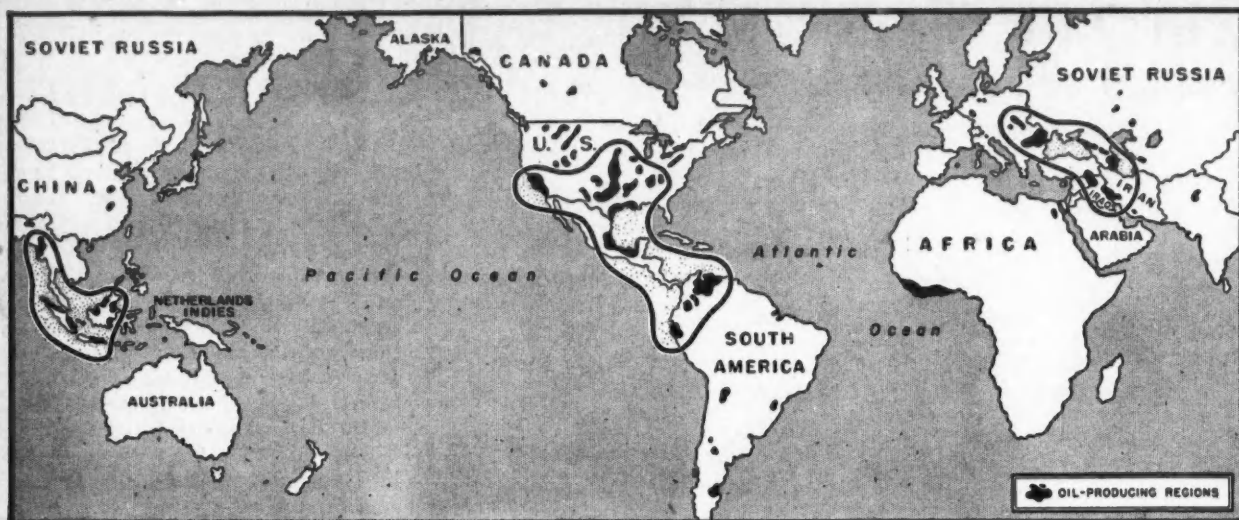
Russia

1. Approximately how much of the world's land surface does the Soviet Union cover?
2. What extremes of climate are found in this area?
3. For what purpose are most of the Russian rivers used when they are not frozen?
4. True or false: Russia's railway system is highly developed.
5. Where are the richest farmlands of the Soviet Union to be found?
6. Where, other than in western Russia, has the Soviet Union in recent years been going forward with large-scale industrial development?
7. What provisions are made for the education of Russian youth?
8. Briefly tell what is meant by a collective farm.
9. What property can an individual own in Russia?
10. Where did most Russians live before the revolution?

fore the revolution? What shift in population has taken place since the Communists came into power?

Miscellaneous

1. Briefly describe the Baruch plan for combating inflation and helping Europe.
2. True or false: Britain is definitely opposed to the idea of forming a western European union.
3. What are the prospects in Congress for an expanded United States Air Force?
4. How has Canada recently dealt with the problem of rising prices?
5. Why, according to reports from Tibet, are the borders of that land to be closed?
6. Describe, in general, the proposed St. Lawrence River project.
7. For what action taken during his administration is James Monroe best remembered today?
8. Why did Mohandas Gandhi, famous Indian leader, go without food for a five-day stretch about two weeks ago?
9. Why did the New York *Herald-Tribune* bring a number of foreign youths to this country?



THESE ARE the major oil-producing regions of the world

MAP BY JOHNSON

Oil Problem

(Concluded from page 1)

to transport a full supply of petroleum products to market. Shortages of fuel oil and gasoline may therefore be felt from time to time until 1949.

While there is no shortage of petroleum itself, we are coming to the time when we may obtain less oil from our own fields, and more from other sources. As the world's largest user of oil, our country has drawn heavily on its underground supplies, and we cannot hope that they will last forever.

We do not know, of course, exactly when our oil deposits will run out. Some experts have said that they may be exhausted in another 15 or 20 years. Other authorities believe that we shall continue to discover new oil fields in this country for some years to come. They say we may have at least a 50-year supply of oil.

Even if we accept the more encouraging forecast, it is not too early to begin asking where we may obtain part or all of our petroleum in the future. Within the lifetime of most of the readers of this paper, we may have to depend on new sources of oil.

We can and do obtain a great deal of oil from foreign lands. Already we are buying some petroleum from Latin American countries and from the Arab nations which lie southeast of the Mediterranean Sea. In the future, we shall increase our purchases.

As this happens, a great change will begin to take place in our buying and selling of oil. For the first time in our history, we shall begin to ship more oil into the United States from foreign lands than we sell abroad. We shall no longer be an exporter of oil, but we shall be an importer of this vital product.

Another Change

At the same time, a change will gradually take place in the ranking of the great oil-producing regions of the world. The region which in the past has produced the most oil lies in the Western Hemisphere. It extends from the United States to the northern part of South America, and it is generally known as the Caribbean basin. The leading producing nations in this area are the U. S., Venezuela, Mexico, Colombia, Trinidad, and Peru.

Another great oil region is the Mediterranean-Near East basin. It includes the countries of Iran, Iraq, Arabia, Romania, and part of southwestern Russia.

A third basin, smaller than the others, but very important, lies in the Far East. It takes in the islands of the Netherlands Indies. There are, of course, other deposits in different parts of the world, but the two great basins—the Caribbean and the Near East—Mediterranean—account for most of the world's oil.

Of the two, the basin in the Mediterranean-Near East is rapidly coming to the front. Only a small fraction of the oil which is known to exist in that area has been pumped out of the ground.

The scramble to get this oil, however, may lead to trouble among the big nations. Each year they have been competing more strongly for the right to buy the oil of the Near and Middle East. As petroleum pools dwindle in other parts of the world, the rivalry for the oil which is to be found near the Mediterranean may grow more intense. It could even lead to war among the big nations.

It might seem, of course, that each of the small, oil-rich lands ought to be able to sell to customers of its own choosing. But these small lands do not have the skill and equipment to drill wells, lay pipelines, and ship the oil abroad. So they permit large nations to come in and search for oil.

As a result, there is a contest to see which large nation gets the right to drill for oil and to buy that oil. Naturally the small countries try to get the best possible price for their oil, and their profit is greater when there is keen competition among "buyers" who want the petroleum.

To avoid dangerous competition for oil among the major powers, some members of the United Nations have suggested that the UN should begin to supervise the world supply of petroleum. If this were done, the UN would set up a system under which each country would be assigned a fair share of oil every year.

The UN turned down this plan, however. A number of countries, including the United States, felt that there is no more reason to control the sale of oil than there is to supervise the sale of other valuable materials.

Meanwhile, there is a strong possibility that science may entirely end the rivalry for natural oil. We are told that there are already successful ways of extracting synthetic oil from coal, oil shale, natural gas, and other materials which are plentiful.

At the experimental plants in which these methods are being tested, most of the obstacles have been overcome. And it is said that the remaining problems can be conquered in a short time. Within three to five years, large

quantities of gasoline and fuel oil can be produced from coal and shale. Moreover, the cost of the synthetic fuels will be brought down until they are no more expensive than the gas and oil refined from natural petroleum.

When synthetic gas and oil come into large-scale use, they will bring the following benefits to our country and the world:

1. It will no longer be necessary for nations to compete for the world's supply of natural petroleum. With new synthetic fuels available, there will be more than enough oil to go around.

2. Our own country need no longer fear that we shall run out of oil for home furnaces, factories, railroad engines, airplanes, and highway vehicles. As we gradually use up our natural petroleum, we can either purchase foreign oil or make our own in factories. If there should be a war, and we could not buy any oil from abroad, we could make all that we needed.

The raw materials from which synthetic oil is produced are so abundant that we shall always have enough of them. It is said that we have enough

coal to meet all possible needs for the next 1,000 to 2,000 years. We also have a great deal of oil shale.

While plants to produce synthetic oil may not be built soon, it is encouraging to know that we have been developing them. Whenever the need for them arises, we can construct as many of them as we require. We still should avoid wastefulness in the use of our natural petroleum. But we need not be troubled by the fear that there is nothing to replace it when it finally does run out.

Your Vocabulary

In each of the sentences below match the italicized word with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Correct answers are on page 8, column 3.

1. A *vigilant* (vij'i-lant) guard stood near the fort. (a) watchful and alert (b) well-armed (c) sleepy (d) trained.

2. His arguments were *fallacious* (fā-lay'shus). (a) moderate (b) obvious (c) misleading and deceitful (d) well-founded.

3. The crowd appeared *exultant* (eg-zul'tant) over the decision. (a) displeased (b) disappointed (c) elated (d) amazed.

4. The movement was led by an *unscrupulous* (un-skrōō'pū-lus) group of men. (a) unorganized (b) unprincipled (c) well-intentioned (d) untrained.

5. An *incredulous* (in-kred'yū-lus) expression flashed across her face. (a) surprised and shocked (b) skeptical and unbelieving (c) pleased (d) unhappy.

6. *Inclement* (in-klem'ent) weather is unusual in that location. (a) rough and stormy (b) mild (c) hot (d) extremely cold.

Our Readers Say—

I heartily agree with June Foss, who suggested that "instead of crime stories on the radio, we have programs that tell of the adventures and ways of people in other lands." I would like to add to this the suggestion that people who like adventure stories listen to the programs about science. There are a number of programs on the radio that tell a great deal about science, and yet have plenty of adventure.

EVELYN DOBES,
Pasadena, California.

★ ★ ★

Your article on "The Russian Ruble" has given the impression that the average Russian is affected considerably by the revaluation of his currency. Other sources point out that the little money the Soviet citizen loses will be quickly replenished by his lowered cost of living. Bank deposits up to 3,000 rubles are unaffected, and there are other clauses of the plan that soften its effect. Altogether, I think the ruble's revaluation is not so tough on the average Russian as you make it seem. It is the profiteer who is really hard hit.

JOAN STRUNK,
East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania.

★ ★ ★

I disagree with statements made by Sally Thompson in regard to help for Europe. It may be true that Europe started the war, but we should not think only of the past. We should send food and clothing to war-torn countries to help rebuild world unity. By helping in this way, we may extend our idea of democracy and make our own country safer.

LOTTIE AGUILLARD,
Basile, Louisiana.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: In this discussion of aid to Europe, it has been implied that Europe is to blame for our being involved in World War II. We entered that war, it should be remembered, because we were attacked by Japan.]

★ ★ ★

It seems to me a waste of energy for the government to keep urging the American people to save food. With today's high prices, the average person cannot afford to do anything but eat every bit of food.

HARLAN BRUNER,
Yakima, Washington.

★ ★ ★

People say that war is inevitable. I disagree. If we look for the best in our fellow men instead of the worst; if we think about the other person instead of ourselves; if we forget greed and hate and talk things over sensibly before acting; then, peace will come.

JUNE DALLAS,
Wenatchee, Washington.

[Address letters to this column to THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, 1733 K Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.]



Youth Forum in New York

The Herald Tribune Has Brought Young People from Six Nations to Discuss World Affairs with American Students

TWENTY-NINE high school students from six foreign countries have been brought to the United States by the New York *Herald Tribune* and the Scandinavian Airlines. The youths hail from the British Isles, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, and Australia.

They have spent several weeks in New York and Baltimore and are now in Washington as guests of the Civic Education Service, publisher of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER. While in the nation's capital, they will be introduced to President Truman, attend sessions of Congress, lunch with Senators and Representatives, visit the Supreme Court, and become acquainted with the city in general.

After their trip to Washington, the young visitors will go back to Baltimore and then return to the homes in and around the New York City area which are providing them with hospitality. The climax of their stay in this country will be on March 6, at which time they will take part in the Youth Forum sponsored by the *Herald Tribune*. This nationally read newspaper has planned a day of stimulating discussion, in which the visitors, together with American students and outstanding national leaders, will participate.

There are 12 girls and 19 boys in the group now in Washington, including one boy and one girl from the New York schools. Most of these foreign students were chosen to come to America on the basis of having won nation-wide essay contests in their native lands. They wrote on the subject, "The World We Want," and each essay had to be written in English.

During their visit to the capital, the young foreigners will see the American government at work. After visiting the White House, Congress, and the Supreme Court, they will attend a reception at the Department of State. They will have an opportunity to talk with some of the officials who handle American relations with their countries. In addition, they will go to the embassies which represent their nations in the United States, and will be shown as much of Washington as possible.

Meeting in Capital

An informal conference for the youth group will be held this evening. Experts on European affairs will join the students in a discussion of the topic, "Prospects for European Economic Recovery under the Marshall Plan." The high schools in Washington have also been invited to send delegates to this meeting.

While in Baltimore, the foreign students are guests of the United Nations Association of Maryland. In New York, they are entertained by the Metropolitan School Study Council. They visit New York schools and live in the homes of American students. One member of the group, Miss Hildur Ve of Norway, appeared on the "Quiz Kids" radio program on January 18, representing the Norwegian "Quiz Kids" program.

When they were asked to tell why they wanted to come to the United States, and what they expected to see here, the students gave some interesting replies. Here are a few of them:

Martti Soisalo (Finland). I have read a great deal about America, some good and some bad. I would like to see the country with my own eyes and then tell my fellow countrymen about it. I want to see if America really is such a great democracy or if its democracy is exaggerated. It would be fine to make new friends in America.

Hildur Ve (Norway). At the moment, America is the richest and mightiest nation in the world, and the industry of the United States stands higher than that of any other country. I want to see the great industrial centers. I want to learn to know the American people, and find out their opinion of art, politics, domestic questions, and so on. I have read quite a lot of novels published in America, and I think they are very interesting. I want to know whether they give a true picture of American life.

Swedish Student

Lars Ameus (Sweden). One of the most important things for me on this trip is to learn the American language better. Then I want to go to the top of the Statue of Liberty and look over New York harbor. I also want to go to Madison Square Garden and see a real ice-hockey match between the Americans and the Canadians. And what would a trip to America be without attending a baseball match? There are lots of other things I want to see in America because it has always been regarded here in Sweden as a land of future.

Ulrik Plesner (Denmark). I have heard so much about the United States, both good and bad, and I want to find out what is true and what is not. I love traveling and seeing new places, meeting new people and getting to know them. Also, I have an uncle in America whom I have never seen.

Andreas Jorgensen (Norway). I want to visit the United States for many different reasons. I hope in that way to learn more English. I want to see with my own eyes the country which has advanced so far above other countries—the country which today can save Europe from its financial crisis. I want to try to learn something more of American culture and policy, and I want to become acquainted with American youth.

Jan Carlestam (Sweden). There is so much I would like to do and see in America! First, I would like to know how ordinary people live and think. Second, I would like to study America's political organization, its industries, and its culture, to read what its greatest thinkers and authors have written and to see the works of its great painters. And what an adventure it will be to see the skyscrapers of New York, the great prairies, the cotton plantations in the South, and the fruit gardens of California!

[We regret that photographs of the six British and two Australian students are not available as we go to press.

For personality sketch of Helen Hiett, New York *Herald Tribune* Forum Director, who arranged for bringing these young people to America, see page 8.]



ALL PHOTOS BY WARMAN FOR NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE
FROM DENMARK (left to right): Johnny Christensen, Annelise Hansen, Niels Skydsgaard, Hanne Nielsen, Merete Hanssen, and Ulrik Plesner



FROM NORWAY (left to right): Hildur Ve, Eva Paasche, Brynjulf Otnes, Thor Johansen, Anne Vogt, and Andreas Jorgensen



FROM FINLAND (left to right): Carsimir Ehrnrooth, Martti Soisalo, and Eeva Tilus, with Dr. Guy Hilleboe and John Lathrop of the Metropolitan School Study Council



FROM SWEDEN (left to right): Yngve Moller, Lars Ameus, Sven During, Carin Quarnstroem, Jan Carlestam, and Sven Stroemholm

A Career for Tomorrow - - The Draftsman

THE draftsman is the worker in industry who bridges the gap between men who create ideas for articles and those who actually make the products. The engineer, for instance, who plans a new machine gives rough sketches to the draftsman. The latter individual then makes detailed and accurate drawings, and the skilled machinist follows these drawings in building the machine.

This process is repeated in practically every manufacturing and construction industry. Airplanes, farm machinery, typewriters, bridges, houses, plumbing systems, and hundreds of other articles are made possible by the work of the draftsman.

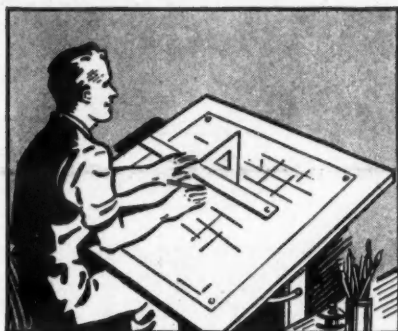
Two outstanding requirements for success in this field are accuracy and mathematical ability. Artistic talent is of some importance, but most people who like freehand drawing would not be happy as draftsmen. This worker does a great deal of drawing, but he uses T-squares, triangles, French curves, and other such instruments rather than doing creative sketches.

In addition to being accurate and liking mathematics, the draftsman should have some mechanical ability. If he is to advance to a good position in the field, he must understand the type of article he is drawing, and he must know the characteristics of the materials from which it is to be manufactured.

One may learn to be a draftsman either through an apprenticeship or

by going to a technical school. Many large manufacturing companies offer apprenticeship training to young men who have completed high school. These on-the-job courses and those in a technical school are similar.

One begins by learning to trace drawings and make blue prints. He then becomes skilled in making accurate sketches in one, two, or three



THE DRAFTSMAN must be accurate

dimensions. As a final part of his preparation, the draftsman learns elementary mechanics, together with some of the physical and chemical properties of the materials used in a particular industry.

A young man looking forward to a career as a draftsman can start in high school by taking courses in mechanical drawing, physics, plane and solid geometry, and trigonometry.

Salaries in this field depend to a large extent upon one's experience. An apprentice will not earn a high

wage to start, but he will receive increases as he becomes more skilled. Earnings for experienced draftsmen vary from \$3,000 to \$6,500 a year, depending upon the locality in which one works. The average is about \$4,800 a year.

One of the advantages of a career in this vocation is that it offers definite opportunities for promotion. Here, as in many fields, though, the chances for advancement depend upon a person's increasing his technical background.

By taking courses outside of working hours, the draftsman may become a designer or the chief of a drafting room. If he secures an engineering degree, he may be in line for advancement to an executive or administrative position with a firm.

There are disadvantages as well as advantages in the draftsman's work. It is confining, and one must spend most of his working day at a drafting board. The necessity for accuracy means that a person must use his eyes constantly and eyestrain often results. Unless one plans to add to his background with outside study, the work may become monotonous.

Information about technical schools in your vicinity can be secured from the State Superintendent of Public Instruction in your state. For details about apprenticeship programs that may be available in your community, make inquiry at your local public employment office.

—By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.

Newsmakers

THE success of the annual public affairs forum conducted by the New York *Herald-Tribune* is largely due to the efforts of Helen Hiatt, Forum Director. She made a special trip abroad to supervise the selection of the young people taking part in the Forum. The understanding of international affairs which she gained as a foreign correspondent and radio commentator fits her admirably for her present position.

A native of Illinois, Miss Hiatt graduated from the University of Chicago in 1934. Going to Europe on a scholarship, she traveled extensively throughout the continent.

When the war broke out, Miss Hiatt left her studies at the London School of Economics and joined the Paris

staff of the National Broadcasting Company. She was in Gibraltar in September, 1940, when that fortress was bombed. Her description of the bombing, broadcast from Madrid, brought her an

award for the best "exclusive radio reporting of a news event" for that year. She was the first woman ever to win this recognition.

As a war correspondent Miss Hiatt covered the events that followed Mussolini's execution in northern Italy. Later she went into Austria and Germany to report the first months of peace in those lands. When she returned to the United States, she joined the *Herald-Tribune* in New York.



Hiatt

American Presidents - - James Monroe

JAMES MONROE, the fifth President, was born on a Virginia farm. His parents, though not wealthy, were socially prominent and were able to give him many opportunities.

The young Monroe enrolled in William and Mary College when he was 16 years old, but before he had finished his course, the Revolutionary War broke out and, with 30 fellow students, he joined the armed forces. His military career was not brilliant, but was considered satisfactory and he came out of the Army a lieutenant colonel.

The next step was the study of law. Monroe became a lawyer but did not practice much, for his time was taken up with politics. He served in the Virginia legislature, then in the Continental Congress. Later he served as United States senator, as ambassador to France, special envoy to France and England, governor of his state, Secretary of State under President Madison, and, for a while, he was Secretary of State and War. In these positions he served competently, but not with great distinction.

Any man's greatness is to be measured by his success in dealing with the problems with which he comes into contact. Among the problems of Monroe's day were the following: The disunity of the nation and the necessity of binding the sections together by a system of roads and canals which would make transportation and communication easier; the growing slavery issue; the presence of a foreign power in Florida; the danger that the European nations might gain footholds in the Western Hemisphere.

The problem of internal improvements was highly important. It was very hard to transport products from one part of the country to the other, particularly from the seaboard to the regions farther west. An effort was being made to get Congress to aid in the building of roads and canals. On this question Monroe's influence was negative. He opposed these improvements on the ground that the Constitution did not give Congress power to act in such a case.

The slavery question Monroe met with good judgment. We know now that the final crisis over slavery did not come in 1820. It was deferred for 40 years thereafter, but it was not clear at the time that it would be deferred. There seemed a real danger that the quarrel over the admission of Missouri to the Union as a free or slave state would result in a national

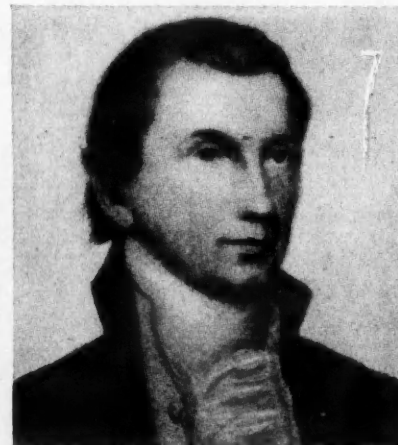
calamity. Finally, the Missouri Compromise was worked out, and President Monroe approved it. The Compromise gave the nation years of time with which to deal with slavery and, if possible, to work out a solution.

President Monroe also met the problem of a foreign power in Florida by working tirelessly to make Florida a part of the Union. This result was accomplished by the purchase of 1819.

Perhaps the crowning achievement of Monroe was the announcement of the principle of foreign policy which bears his name—the Monroe Doctrine. Our government declared, in effect, that the attempt of European powers to establish themselves in the Western Hemisphere would meet resistance by the United States.

It is true that Monroe's secretary of state, John Quincy Adams, did more in the formulation of the doctrine than Monroe did, but the President was actively interested in the problem. He backed his secretary of state and assumed responsibility for what must then have seemed a somewhat risky venture.

Although few historians consider James Monroe a statesman of the first rank, he is justly regarded as a man of sterling honesty and sound judgment who served his nation well.



JAMES MONROE, fifth President

Answers to Vocabulary Test

1. (a) watchful and alert; 2. (c) misleading and deceitful; 3. (c) elated; 4. (b) unprincipled; 5. (b) skeptical and unbelieving; 6. (a) rough and stormy.

Mohandas Gandhi, famous Indian nationalist leader, is continuing his efforts to bring about peace among Moslems, Hindus, and Sikhs in his native land. Although a Hindu himself, Gandhi went without food for a five-day stretch last month to bring about a guarantee of safety for Moslems in New Delhi, capital of the Hindu Indian Union.

Gandhi was born 78 years ago in northwest India. In accordance with local custom he was married at an early age, and at 19 he went to England to study law. Returning to India, he practiced law in Bombay and then moved to South Africa for a time.

In 1914 Gandhi went back to India and devoted himself to social work among the poor of his native land. He turned against the British in 1920. As leader of the independence movement in India, however, he urged his followers never to use violence.

During the next 20 years Gandhi was imprisoned several times by the British for his part in the struggle for Indian freedom. Several times he went on hunger strikes to get what he wanted. The British usually gave in, fearing that great disturbances would take place if Gandhi should die.

His latest fast was ended when Hindu leaders promised protection for Moslems in the Indian Union.

—By HOWARD O. SWEET.



Gandhi